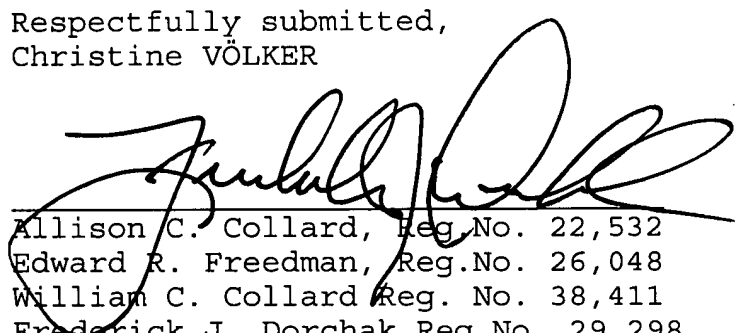


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1, and claims 1 through 24 have been formally amended and amended to delete the multiple dependencies. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine VÖLKER

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802



Allison C. Collard, Reg. No. 22,532
Edward R. Freedman, Reg. No. 26,048
William C. Collard Reg. No. 38,411
Frederick J. Dorchak Reg. No. 29,298
Elizabeth C. Richter Reg. No. 35,103
Attorneys for Applicant

Express Mail No. EH2389877545
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Maria Guastella